

IRRIGATION, DROUGHT AND HOT WINDS.

In the summer of 1889 the western half of Kansas suffered a great misfortune in nearly the total loss of its corn crop from hot winds. The editor of this paper made an extended tour through that region in that fall, and made an exhaustive study of the whole subject. We gave the results of that study in an editorial in this paper of the date of Oct. 5, 1889. That article attracted little or no attention. During the past summer Nebraska suffered a much greater and more general calamity than did Kansas the year before. The subject is now attracting general attention, and the facts and inferences we published more than a year ago are being recognized as correct by many observers. We again appeal to the press of all the northwest to give this subject the attention it deserves, and we appeal to the farmers all over the northwest to apply the remedy we propose.

From the FARMERS' ALLIANCE, Oct. 5, 1889.
The Senate Committee's tour in the west to investigate the situation of the country relative to water supply, and the feasibility of applying a system of irrigation, has attracted considerable attention. It has also brought to the surface an old scheme for constructing mountain reservoirs for storing the waters of the spring and autumn, and using them for irrigating purposes during the summer. Considering the enormous expense involved in this scheme, and that at best it would be of comparatively limited application, it must be dismissed for the present as impracticable. Enormous areas are to be considered in this matter. The western half of the states of Kansas and Nebraska, all of Colorado, most of the Dakotas, and much of Montana are often, very often, subject to severe drouths, with accompanying hot winds. If every canyon in the Rocky mountains was transformed into a reservoir, a thousand millions of dollars would not suffice to divert the revivifying waters to the regions where it is most needed. The Almighty has furnished the only agency by which this can be done, and Major Powell cannot successfully set up as His rival.

The existing necessity seems to be for some ameliorating influence upon our general climatic condition, causing more humidity to be taken up by evaporation over large areas, thus tempering heat and causing a more general distribution of rain. Unless these natural agencies can be brought into play any general relief from the devastations of drouth cannot be had.

I believe there is a remedy within our reach, if united efforts are made to reach it. I do not believe that there are large areas of fertile soil, where grass grows and water is found not far below the surface, that cannot by man's ingenuity and enterprise be made fit for habitation.

It is generally supposed that the hot winds, which are the most destructive feature of our drouths, come from some remote point further south where the heat may be still greater. This is the great mistake in relation to hot winds, and this is the initiatory point of a remedy for the whole trouble. The fact is, that the HOT WINDS ORIGINATE EXACTLY WHERE THEY ARE BELT. Large areas of land in the regions destitute of large lakes become superheated by long exposure to the direct rays of the sun at a temperature of 100° and upward, and the still air resting upon this ground becomes also superheated. A gentle south wind now springs up. This superheated air rises, and by the vacuum thus created the wind is increased in velocity, and we have the in-moon or hot wind of the west. Its continuance depends upon the dryness and duration and extent of the preceding heat. But it will not extend or do any damage much beyond the area where the ground was so superheated. Hot winds can only be felt when the wind is from the south or southwest. Wind from any other quarter at once cools the superheated air. Hot winds prevailed in Dakota this summer, but did not prevail in Nebraska. If they come from remote points why should not we in Nebraska have felt those winds before they reached our Dakota friends? The answer is, that the conditions I have described as causing the hot winds existed in Dakota and did not exist in Nebraska. We have known the hot wind to be felt for a few hours with a southeast wind. But the southeast wind being cool and moist, soon overcomes the influence of the heated air. In the south and southwest wind the air continually rises, but the heated condition of the earth supplies its place with more heated air, but in a somewhat less degree, the mere motion of the atmosphere tending to coolness. This process goes on until a uniform temperature is established, either by gradual process or a storm.

Long continued absence of dew is a condition precedent of hot winds. With a certain degree of humidity in the atmosphere, nightly falling in refreshing dews, the earth, even where it was quite bare of vegetation, could not become so intensely heated as to heat the air to the extent I have named. Hence hot winds under such conditions would be impossible.

From the above facts we infer that hot winds could not exist in a region where there was a considerable proportion of water evenly distributed, from which there could be enough evapora-

tion to produce the necessary humidity to prevent the superheating of the earth's surface. The great question now is, can this condition be artificially produced over large areas, at a cost within the means of the people? We think it can. Over nearly all of western Nebraska and Kansas, and eastern Colorado, and in nearly all of Dakota, the surface is gently rolling, with many draws, which as we go westward become canons.

There is comparatively little country that is so level that artificial ponds of from one to ten acres might not be made on nearly every quarter section. The labor of constructing these ponds is very little. It is done with plow and scraper, and is entirely unskilled labor. Now suppose there should be a uniform movement through all the regions I have named to construct these artificial ponds on every farm before the ground freezes this fall. The fall and spring rains would fill them with water, ready for evaporation during the next summer. This evaporation would take place, and the moisture thus raised would be redeposited in showers or dews somewhere in the great region brought within the influence of this system. An interchange of such showers and dews would go forward, and drouth in all the great area named would be impossible. Then indeed the benefits portrayed by some enthusiastic editors to result from Major Powell's mountain reservoirs would be realized. "An addition of 100,000,000 acres of rich but now arid land would be made to the tillable area of the west."

This movement, to be valuable, must be general. Over one county it might have no appreciable effect. Over half a state it could not fail of beneficial results. We sincerely believe, if this plan could be put in force over the western half of the state of Kansas, it would add \$5 per acre to the value of every acre of land in that half of the state. And so of Nebraska, Colorado, Dakota and Montana.

In behalf of all the people—in behalf of increased production—in behalf of those struggling farmers who have been so frequently burned out by hot winds and drouth—we ask the press of the west and northwest to take up this subject, and secure a concerted movement to put this plan in force.

This irrigating business, the investigation of the nature and causes of hot winds, and the means to prevent them, should be under the direction of the secretary of agriculture instead of a junketing senate committee, and the secretary should give the whole subject persistent and exhaustive attention until some result is reached.

The plan we propose requires no appropriation from congress—only a concerted movement of the people themselves for their own benefit.

THE CONGER LARD BILL AND THE PADDOCK PURE FOOD BILL.

The Nebraska state alliance that recently adjourned, resolved, under the direction of Burrows, against the Paddock pure food bill and in favor of the Conger lard bill. This was a piece of petty personal spite on the part of Burrows, who wants to succeed Paddock. The national alliance declared the other way, and favored the Paddock bill, and the petitions for that bill by the farmers from all parts of the country are constantly rolling in.

The Conger lard bill is a partial measure guarding against adulterations of lard only, while the Paddock pure food bill gives the same protection to all articles of food so as to protect the manufacturers of pure articles and the table of the consumer against any sort of adulteration. It embraces with regard to lard adulteration all the ground covered by the Conger bill. It is childish in the extreme for the Nebraska alliance to condemn this bill because it was Paddock's—Lincoln Journal.

As usual, the B. & M. Journal is incorrect in its facts and wrong in its conclusions. The State Alliance did not resolve against the Paddock pure food bill. The resolution alluded to, as officially reported by the secretary, is as follows: "That we endorse the Conger lard bill and demand its speedy passage by the U. S. Senate." The Journal, with its fulness of wind and paucity of information, probably knows little or nothing about the relative merits of the bills it alludes to. At any rate it gives its readers no reliable information on the subject. While both aiming to reach desirable ends, the Conger lard bill is practical, while the Paddock pure food bill is not practical. The latter proposes to prohibit the sale of adulterated products under the power of congress to regulate commerce between the states. The proposition is self-refuting, and is a confession at the start of lack of jurisdiction. Congress has no power over the sale of adulterated products in the states. So a law that merely prohibits interstate traffic in adulterated food would have no force unless supplemented by uniform legislation uniformly executed by all the states of the Union, which is manifestly impracticable—at least, for years to come. The Conger lard bill takes one leading product and provides that any compounds in imitation of that product shall be branded on each package and shall pay a small internal revenue tax, and places the enforcement of the law in the hands of the internal revenue department. This is simple, practical, and effective. People do not willingly violate our internal revenue laws, as the penalty is the same as for counterfeiting United States money. Under this plan no question of jurisdiction can be raised, but the law would reach the compound product in every part of the United States without supplementary legislation by the states. The Paddock pure food bill, striking at

once at all adulterations, proposes to accomplish an impossibility by impracticable methods.

The lard market is being flooded with compounds made to resemble lard which contain in some cases no lard whatever, and in others only a small percentage of lard. These compounds reach the consumer as lard, their sale being in every instance a deception and a fraud. These fraudulent compounds have subjected the genuine product to such destructive competition that whereas lard formerly sold at from one to three cents over side meat, it now sells for less than side meat. The loss to hog growers resulting from the fraud has been from thirty-two cents per head in the earlier stages of the fraudulent production, to eighty cents per head in the later stages. The aggregate loss on the entire hog crop amounts to from \$13,000,000 to \$15,000,000 per annum, and is the result of a deliberate and systematic cheat upon both producer and consumer, and the interests of both demand efficient statutory prohibition of the evil.

The Conger bill, by imposing a small tax on each package of "lard compound" barely sufficient to pay the expenses of carrying out the law, at once furnishes an efficient remedy which executes itself the whole country over, by providing a stamp or brand that reveals the true character of the article to every purchaser, enabling him to buy it for what it really is, instead of having it imposed upon him for what it is not.

It is a notable fact in connection with these bills, that Phil Armour and the other producers of lard compound are deadly hostile to the Conger lard bill, but not only make no opposition but are friendly to the Paddock pure food bill. This is a well established fact and Mr. Paddock and the State Journal may make the most of it.

If the Journal is posted on this subject it carefully conceals that fact from its readers. But we wish it to distinctly understand that when the State Alliance adopted that resolution on the subject it understood the question fully and knew exactly what it was doing. It fully discussed both measures, and knew their relative merits apparently much better than the editor of the B. & M. Journal. And while it is quite immaterial, we will just whisper into the long ear of Mr. Gere that Mr. Burrows took no part in the debate, and did not in any way influence any delegate to vote for the resolution; and further than that, Mr. Burrows isn't now and never expects to be a candidate for United States Senator.

And we will add that the National Alliance has made no declaration on the Conger lard bill, but will declare in its favor at its next annual meeting, January 27.

A Nebraska City paper—an organ of Van Wyck—makes a lying statement about some occurrence that never happened in the state meeting, and then warns the farmers against Burrows and Powers. It says:

"It is evident that Jay Burrows has the big head and that he has a few friends standing at his back pushing his dictatorial measures to the front contrary to the popular will of the alliance as was shown in this case."

"The alliance is a move in the right direction, but Jay Burrows and Powers are not the proper leaders at the head of the organization."

Of course not. It ought to have Van Wyck at the head of it. But he never thought of it till just before the people's convention.

THE CRUELLEST CUT OF ALL.

Ex-Candidate Richards is out in an open letter to E. Rosewater. The daily Call publishes it under the odorous head-line "Skinning a Skunk," and says "it is done in an able, masterly way." For the time being its candidate for governor is the big in-jun of the republican party. He repudiates Rosewater, the editor of its organ. How are the mighty fallen! "Alas! poor Yorick!" Well, Rosey can take it out in abuse of Burrows.

HON. C. D. SHRADER.

We are informed that in our comments upon the supposed reported interview with Mr. Shrader in the World-Herald, we did Mr. Shrader great injustice. Such was not our intention, and we greatly regret it if we did so. We said we thought the interview did Mr. Shrader injustice. We cheerfully give place this week to a letter of commendation from his own county. We have always believed Mr. Shrader to be a sound and true man.

Rosewater bunched about sixty-five republican and democratic country editors and at one fell swoop mashed the whole outfit. They are a lousy lot without shadow of doubt, and they are proving it and paying Rosewater at the same time by copying from the Bee every low-down gag it gets off about Burrows, and parading it to disgust their readers. It is a low-down dog that licks the hand that smites it.

RESPECTS TO BRO. M. M. HALLECK

Our friend M. M. Halleck of Merrick county will please accept of sincere thanks for his kind letter of Dec. 2d, which was mislaid, and so not answered. We fully appreciate the kind sentiments it contains, and hope to continue to merit the respect of the writer. Bro. Halleck is an earnest and able worker in the people's cause, as the readers of our paper know. We hope to hear from him often.

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" " in barrel lots	5 1/2	" " apricots "	20
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Sorgham in kegs	1 30	Flour per 100	1 50
" " barrels per gallon	40	Buckwheat flour per sack 12 1/2 lb	45
" " " "	38	Corn and oats chop feed per 100	1 25

J. W. HARTLEY, State Agent, Lincoln, Neb.